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4 May 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. I met briefly with members of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee staff before they returned to the Committee meeting this afternoon with Mr. Laird and General Wheeler. Although today's session was scheduled on appropriations matters, the morning session apparently turned into a hearing on Cambodia.

2. Each of the four or five members of the staff who were present took turns in joshing me as soon as I entered the staff room that they have now learned authoritatively from testimony before the Committee this morning that CIA finally agrees with the Army that Sihanoukville has been important all along and that 75 percent of the supplies going into IV corps and 50 percent going into III corps have been coming in through Sihanoukville. Response to questioning by Committee members apparently indicated that CIA had in effect misled everyone in the past that this was not an important port and that the bulk of supplies came in from the north although Army knew differently all along.

It is difficult to assess how much was pure personal fun and what the actual words used by the witnesses. The sense was clear that CIA interpretation in the past that Sihanoukville was not important and that the bulk of supplies came in from the north, has been misleading and contrary to Army feeling all along.

3. In a conversation with one of the members as they were leaving the room, it was noted that General Wheeler's prepared text indicated that it has not been the Army's prime objective to go after forces or headquarters units in the present campaign even though it would be helpful if they could capture headquarters personnel, but that the primary mission is supplies and supply bases. General Wheeler's presentation was classed as being at odds with the text of the President's statements as reported in the Press.

STATINTL